

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (currently amended): An absorbent article comprising:

a topsheet;

a backsheet,;

an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, said absorbent core comprising core by dispersing superabsorbent polymer particles (SAP) within a fibrous matrix;

wherein the absorbent article has a thermal resistance (clo) of less than about 1.7 watts/m<sup>2</sup>, as measured in a Thermolabo apparatus, said core having a basis weight within the range of from about 650 gsm to about 1350 gsm, and a density within the range of from about 0.05 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to about 0.45 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 2 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, whereby the topsheet and the backsheet form a first waist region, a second waist region longitudinally opposite the first waist region, and a crotch region there between, and the absorbent article further comprises at least one fastening element attached to a lateral edge of the first waist region; and one or more target devices attached to the article in the second waist region, where at least one fastening element and the one or more target devices are capable of attaching to one another, the one or more target devices being located so that the first waist region and second waist region of the garment may be joined to one another to secure the garment on a wearer.

Claim 3 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising elastic leg gathers comprising one or more elastic materials disposed adjacent a lateral edge of the crotch region, and standing leg gathers disposed on the topsheet adjacent a lateral edge of the crotch region.

Claim 4 (original): The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the at least one fastening element comprises a hook portion of a hook and loop fastener and the one or more target devices comprise the loop portion of a hook and loop fastener.

Claim 5 (original): The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the at least one fastening element is an adhesive tape and the one or more target devices comprise a tape receiving surface.

Claim 6 (original): The absorbent article of claim 2, wherein the at least one fastening element is comprised of a pair of laterally extending tabs disposed on the lateral edges of the first waist region, whereby the laterally extending tabs each include at least one fastening element.

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~~Claim 7 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a fluid acquisition layer disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.~~

Claim 8 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a distribution layer disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claim 9 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a wicking layer disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claim 10 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a storage layer disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claim 11 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a fragmented layer disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claim 12 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, further comprising a combination of a wicking layer and a distribution layer disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claims 13 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent core comprises:

- an upper layer;
- a lower layer; and
- a central fibrous layer disposed between the upper layer and the lower layer, the central fibrous core comprising a mixture of at least a fibrous material and superabsorbent polymer (SAP)

Claim 14 (canceled)

Claim 15 (canceled)

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Claim 16 (original): The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the SAP is selected from the group consisting of a water swellable polymer of water soluble acrylic or vinyl monomers crosslinked with a polyfunctional reactant, a starch modified polyacrylic acid, a hydrolyzed polyacrylonitrile, alkali metal salts of hydrolyzed polyacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.

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Claim 17 (original): The absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the SAP is a starch grafted polyacrylate sodium salt.

Claim 18 (original): The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the fibrous material is selected from the group consisting of a crimped tow of cellulose acetate or polyester, a low-density roll good, a carded web, and mixtures or combinations thereof.

Claim 19 (original): The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the absorbent core further comprises from about 1-5% of a thermally bondable fiber.

Claim 20 (original): The absorbent article of claim 18, wherein the fibrous material is a crimped tow of cellulose acetate.

Claim 21 (original): The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the central fibrous layer comprises from about 50% to about 95% by weight super absorbent polymer (SAP), and has a SAP efficiency of at least 80%.

Claim 22 (original): The absorbent article of claim 13, wherein the central fibrous layer further comprises particulate additives.

Claim 23 (original): The absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the particulate additives comprise insoluble, hydrophilic polymers having particle diameters of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

Claim 24 (original): The absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the particulate additives are selected from the group consisting of potato, corn, wheat, and rice starches, and partially cooked or modified starches.

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Claim 25 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has an intrinsic thermal resistance ( $R_{\text{cf}}$ ) of less than about  $0.25^{\circ}\text{Cm}^2/\text{Watts}$ , as measured on a 20 x 20 inch sample in a Thermolabo apparatus.

Claim 26 (original): The absorbent article of claim 25, wherein  $R_{\text{cf}}$  is less than about  $0.17^{\circ}\text{Cm}^2/\text{Watts}$ .

Claim 27 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a  $\text{clo}$  of less than about  $1.65 \text{ watts/m}^2$ .

Claim 28 (original): The absorbent article of claim 27, wherein the  $\text{clo}$  is less than about  $1.40 \text{ watts/m}^2$ .

Claim 29 (original): The absorbent article of claim 1, wherein the absorbent core has a thickness within the range of from about 5 to about 20 mm.

Claim 30 (currently amended): A method of making an absorbent article comprising:

- a) preparing a topsheet and a backsheet;
- b) preparing an absorbent core by dispersing superabsorbent polymer particles (SAP) within a fibrous matrix; and
- c) disposing the absorbent laminate core between the topsheet and the backsheet, wherein the absorbent article has a thermal resistance (clo) of less than about 1.7 watts/m<sup>2</sup>, as measured in a Thermolabo apparatus, said core having a basis weight within the range of from about 650 gsm to about 1350 gsm, and a density within the range of from about 0.05 g/cm<sup>3</sup> to about 0.45 g/cm<sup>3</sup>.

Claim 31 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein preparing the absorbent core comprises: supplying an upper layer; supplying a lower layer; and preparing a central  
fibrous layer by intimately mixing at least a fibrous material and superabsorbent polymer (SAP) particles; and disposing the central fibrous layer between the upper layer and the lower layer.

Claim 32 (canceled)

Claim 33 (canceled)

Claim 34 (original): The method of claim 31, wherein the SAP is selected from the group consisting of a water swellable polymer of water soluble acrylic or vinyl monomers crosslinked with a polyfunctional reactant, a starch modified polyacrylic acid, a hydrolyzed polyacrylonitrile, alkali metal salts of hydrolyzed polyacrylonitrile, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 35 (original): The method of claim 34, wherein the SAP is a starch grafted polyacrylate sodium salt.

Claim 36 (original): The method of claim 31, wherein the fibrous material is selected

from the group consisting of a crimped tow of cellulose acetate or polyester, a low-density roll good, a carded web, and mixtures or combinations thereof.

Claim 37 (original): The method of claim 31, wherein the absorbent core further comprises from about 1-5% of a thermally bondable fiber.

Claim 38 (original): The method of claim 36, wherein the fibrous material is a crimped tow of cellulose acetate.

Claim 39 (original): The method of claim 31, wherein the central fibrous layer comprises from about 50% to about 95% by weight super absorbent polymer (SAP), and has a SAP efficiency of at least 80%.

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Claim 40 (original): The method of claim 31, wherein the central fibrous layer further comprises particulate additives.

Claim 41 (original): The method of claim 40, wherein the particulate additives comprise insoluble, hydrophilic polymers having particle diameters of 100  $\mu\text{m}$  or less

Claim 42 (original): The method of claim 41, wherein the particulate additives are selected from the group consisting of potato, corn, wheat, and rice starches, and partially cooked or modified starches.

Claim 43 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the absorbent article has an intrinsic thermal resistance ( $R_{cf}$ ) of less than about  $0.25^{\circ}\text{Cm}^2/\text{Watts}$ , when measured on a 20 x 20 inch sample in a Thermolabo apparatus.

Claim 44 (original): The method of claim 43, wherein  $R_{cf}$  is less than about  $0.19^{\circ}\text{Cm}^2/\text{Watts}$ .

Claim 45 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the absorbent article has a clo of

less than about 1.65 watts/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 46 (original): The method of claim 45, wherein the clo is less than about 1.40 watts/m<sup>2</sup>.

Claim 47 (original): The method of claim 30, wherein the absorbent core has a thickness within the range of from about 5 to 20 mm.

Claim 48 (original): The method of claim 30, further comprising folding the absorbent core prior to disposing the core between the topsheet and the backsheet.

Claim 49 (original): The method of claim 48, wherein the absorbent core is folded into a "C" configuration.

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